



# Congressional Record

**Mr. Bishop (GA)** – Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia which has served as a tower of strength for the people of the Second Congressional District. The church was founded on July 11, 1920 in a small wooden house located at 627 Society Avenue under the noble leadership of the late Reverend Grant Edgar Hall.

The church was christened by Mr. Jubie Johnson, who was also one of the first members of the church. During its inception, worship services were held on the first and third Sundays of each month. The church's first pastor, Reverend Edgar Hall, retired in 1956 due to ill health and old age. He was succeeded by Reverend R.J. Polk. Since then, the church has been blessed by several pastors who have served the people of Albany as evangelists, prophets, teachers, counselors, and friends. Reverend Polk was followed by dynamic leaders like Reverend P.E. Davenport, Reverend J.L. Jones, Reverend J.E. Brown, Reverend C.W. Heath, Reverend R.E. Ousley, Reverend Jimmy Sneed, Reverend Carl K. Rolle, Reverend Veron D. Lloyd, Reverend Clayton D. Smith and Reverend Dr. James B. Rodgers.

In the last 90 years, the church has seen exponential growth. The church's original edifice was expanded under the guidance of Reverend Ousley. The adjacent land and Annex South were developed with Reverend Rolle's valuable assistance and Annex East was purchased and refurbished under Reverend Smith's guidance. With the effective leadership from the church's pastors and tremendous public support, the church has continued to expand. Under the Reverend Walter L. Ingram, Jr., the church relocated to its larger permanent residence on 1501 Newton Road.

Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church has served as a pillar of strength for the Albany community. Through its numerous outreach ministries, it has strived to serve the people of the great state of Georgia and the city of Albany. By reaching out to those in need and comforting those who are

suffering, the church has become a source of spiritual support for the people of the community.

On the occasion of its 90th Anniversary, it gives me great honor to recognize Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church for all its efforts. I thank the church and its congregation for all their years of service. I wish and hope that they continue to spread the word of God and continue serving the community in Albany. To God Be The Glory!